IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims have been presented whether or not an amendment has been made. The claims have been amended as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for tracking telecommunication services comprising:

receiving a call packet from a first node, wherein the call packet includes a call identifier identifying a call associated with the call packet;

determining a filter status of the call; and

transmitting notification messages to the first node **from which the call packet was received** and a second node, wherein the notification messages identify the call identifier and the filter status of the call and wherein the notification messages conform to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information; and

forwarding the call packet to the second node.

2. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising receiving an open message, wherein the open message identifies a node operable to receive notification messages, and wherein transmitting the notification message comprises transmitting the notification message to the identified node.

3. **(Original)** The method of Claim 2, wherein the open message identifies a hold time for which the open message is valid.

4. **(Original)** The method of Claim 2, further comprising receiving keepalive messages from the identified node, wherein the keepalive messages indicate that the identified node is still operable to receive notification messages, and wherein transmitting the notification message comprises transmitting the notification message to the identified node based on whether a keepalive message has been received within a predetermined time period.

5. **(Original)** The method of Claim 4, wherein each keepalive messages identifies a hold time for which the keepalive message is valid.

6. **(Original)** The method of Claim 1, wherein determining a filter status of the call comprises determining a filter status of the call based on at least one of a calling number associated with the call, a called number associated with the call, a network address associated with the call, and a carrier associated with the call.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A method for tracking telecommunication services comprising:

receiving a request message at a first filter node from a remote node, wherein the request message includes a call identifier;

in response to receiving the request message, determining whether the first filter node possesses a filter status associated with the call identifier;

in response to determining that the first filter node possesses a filter status associated with the call identifier:

determining a filter status associated with the call identifier; and

transmitting an acknowledgement message to the remote node **from which the request message was received**, wherein the acknowledgement message identifies the filter status and wherein the acknowledgement message conforms to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information; and

in response to determining that the first filter node does not possess a filter status associated with the call identifier, indicate to the remote node a second filter node that possesses a filter status associated with the call identifier.

8. **(Original)** The method of Claim 7, wherein determining a filter status associated with the call identifier comprises determining a filter status of the call based on at least one of a calling number associated with the call, a called number associated with the call, a network address associated with the call, and a carrier associated with the call.

9. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus for distributing tracking information comprising:

a network interface operable to:

receive a call packet from a first node, wherein the call packet includes a call identifier identifying a call associated with the call packet;

a memory operable to store a filter list, wherein the filter list identifies filter statuses associated with one or more call identifiers;

a processor operable to determine a filter status of the call based on at least the filter list; and

wherein the network interface is further operable to:

transmit notification messages to the first node **from which the call packet was received** and a second node wherein the notification messages identify the call identifier and the filter status of the call and wherein the notification messages conform to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information; and

forward the call packet to the second node.

10. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the network interface is further operable to receive an open message, wherein the open message identifies a node operable to receive notification messages, and wherein the network interface is further operable to transmitting the notification message by transmitting the notification message to the identified node.

11. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the open message identifies a hold time for which the open message is valid.

12. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the network interface is further operable to receive keepalive messages from the identified node, wherein the keepalive messages indicate that the identified node is still operable to receive notification messages, and wherein the network interface is further operable to transmit the notification message to the identified node based on whether a keepalive message has been received from the identified node within a predetermined time period.

13. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the keepalive message identifies a hold time for which the keepalive message is valid.

14. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the processor is further operable to determine the filter status of the call based on the filter list and at least one of a calling number associated with the call, a called number associated with the call, a network address associated with the call, and a carrier associated with the call.

15. **(Currently Amended)** An apparatus for distributing tracking information comprising:

a network interface operable to receive a request message from a remote node, wherein the request message includes a call identifier;

a memory operable to store a filter list, wherein the filter list identifies filter statuses associated with one or more call identifiers;

a processor operable to determine whether the filter list identifies a filter status associated with the call identifier included in the request message; and

wherein the network interface is further operable to:

in response to the processor determining that the filter list identifies a filter status associated with the call identifier included in the request message, transmit an acknowledgement message to the remote node **from which the request message was received**, wherein the acknowledgement message identifies the filter status associated with the call identifier and wherein the acknowledgement message conforms to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information; and

in response to the processor determining that the filter list does not identify a filter status associated with the call identifier included in the request message, indicate to the remote node a filter node that possesses a filter status associated with the call identifier included in the request message.

16. **(Original)** The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein the processor is further operable to determine the filter status associated with the call identifier based on the filter list and at least an incoming calling number associated with the call, a telephone number associated with the call, a network address associated with the call, and a carrier associated with the call.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A system for tracking telecommunication services comprising:

a plurality of network nodes;

a filter node operable to:

receive a call packet from a first network node, wherein the call packet includes a call identifier identifying a call associated with the call packet;

determine a filter status of the call;

transmit notification messages to a the first network node **from which the call packet was received** and a second network node, wherein the notification messages identify the call identifier and the filter status of the call and wherein the notification messages conform to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information; and

forward the call packet to the second network node; and

wherein each of the plurality of network nodes is operable to receive the call packet and to take a filter action based on the filter status of the call.

18. **(Original)** The system of Claim 17, wherein one or more of the network nodes are further operable to transmit an open message to the filter node, wherein the open messages indicate that the network node sending the open message is operable to receive notification messages, and wherein the filter node is further operable to transmit the notification message to network nodes from which the filter node has received an open message.

19. **(Original)** The system of Claim 18, wherein the open message identifies a hold time for which the open message is valid.

20. **(Original)** The system of Claim 18, wherein one or more network nodes are further operable to transmit keepalive messages to the filter node, wherein the keepalive messages indicate that the network node sending the keepalive message is still operable to receive notification messages, and wherein the filter node is further operable to transmit the notification message to only network nodes from which the filter node has received a keepalive message within a predetermined time period.

21. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 20, wherein the keepalive message identifies a hold time for which the keepalive message is valid.

22. **(Original)** The system of Claim 17, wherein the filter node is further operable to determine the filter status of the call by determining the filter status of the call based on at least a calling number associated with the call, a called number associated with the call, a network address associated with the call, and a carrier associated with the call.

23. **(Original)** The system of Claim 17, wherein the filter node comprises one of a plurality of filter nodes.

24. **(Currently Amended)** A system for tracking telecommunication services comprising:

a network node operable to transmit a request message wherein the request message includes a call identifier;

a first filter node operable to:

receive the request message;

in response to receiving the request message, determine whether the first filter node possesses a filter status associated with the call identifier;

in response to determining that the first filter node possesses a filter status associated with the call identifier:

determine a filter status associated with the call identifier; and

transmit an acknowledgement message to the network node **from which the request message was received**, wherein the acknowledgement message includes filter status information associated with the call identifier and wherein the acknowledgement message conforms to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information; and

in response to determining that the first filter node does not possess a filter status associated with the call identifier, indicate to the remote node a second filter node that possesses a filter status associated with the call identifier.

25. **(Original)** The system of Claim 24, wherein the filter node is further operable to determine the filter status associated with the call identifier based on at least one of a calling number associated with the call, a telephone number associated with the call, a network address associated with the call, and a carrier associated with the call.

26. **(Original)** The system of Claim 24, wherein the filter node comprises one of a plurality of filter nodes.

27. **(Currently Amended)** A system for tracking telecommunication services comprising:

means for receiving a call packet from a first node, wherein the call packet includes a call identifier identifying a call associated with the call;

means for determining a filter status of the call; and

means for transmitting a notification message notification messages to the first node **from which the call packet was received** and a second node, wherein the notification messages identify the call identifier and the filter status of the call and wherein the notification messages conform to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information.

28. **(Currently Amended)** A system for tracking telecommunication services comprising:

means for receiving a request message at a first filter node from a remote node, wherein the request message includes a call identifier;

means for determining whether the first filter node possesses a filter status associated with the call identifier in response to receiving the request message;

means for, in response to determining that the first filter node possesses a filter status associated with the call identifier:

determining a filter status associated with the call identifier; and

transmitting an acknowledgement message to the remote node **from which the request message was received**, wherein the acknowledgement message identifies the filter status and wherein the acknowledgement message conforms to a protocol that primarily communicates tracking information; and

means for indicating to the remote node a second filter node that possesses a filter status associated with the call identifier in response to determining that the first filter node does not possess a filter status associated with the call identifier.

29. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining a filter action associated with the call based, at least in part, on the filter status of the call.

30. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 29, wherein the filter action comprises selecting an alternate path to a destination node of the call.

31. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 29, wherein the filter action comprises delivering the call to a destination node and a third node.

32. **(Previously Presented)** The method of Claim 2, wherein the open message further identifies one or more types of filter statuses that the network node is capable of receiving and one or more types of messages that the network node is capable of receiving.

33. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the processor is further operable to determine a filter action associated with the call based, at least in part, on the filter status of the call.

34. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of Claim 33, wherein the filter action comprises selecting an alternate path to a destination node of the call.

35. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of Claim 33, wherein the filter action comprises delivering the call to a destination node and a third node.

36. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the open message further identifies one or more types of filter statuses that the network node is capable of receiving and one or more types of messages that the network node is capable of receiving.

37. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 17, wherein the filter node is further operable to determine a filter action associated with the call based, at least in part, on the filter status of the call.

38. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 37, wherein the filter action comprises selecting an alternate path to a destination node of the call.

39. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 37, wherein the filter action comprises delivering the call to a destination node and a monitoring node.

40. **(Previously Presented)** The system of Claim 18, wherein the open message further identifies one or more types of filter statuses that the network node sending the open message is capable of receiving and one or more types of messages that the network node sending the open message is capable of receiving.